

REMARKS

In the Office Action mailed April 10, 2006, claims 1-11 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph; claims 1, 2 and 5-11 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Mandel et al. (U.S. Patent No. 6,036,292); and claims 3 and 4 were "objected to". The foregoing rejections are respectfully traversed.

Claim 2 has been cancelled without prejudice or disclaimer. Claims 1 and 3-11 have been amended. Claims 1 and 3-11 are currently pending and under consideration. Reconsideration is respectfully requested.

Regarding the 112 rejection:

Claims 1 and 3-11 have been amended to overcome the rejection.

Regarding the 102(b) rejection:

Mandel fails to discuss "a refrigerator comprising a main body having a storage compartment defined therein and comprising a supporting member connected with a bottom part thereof of the main body and including an engaging groove, and a lower cover mounted to a lower end of a front part of the main body such that a front part of the lower cover and the front part of the main body together form a same plane, the lower cover comprising an engaging member bent from an upper end of the lower cover in a direction towards a rear of the main body to be inserted into the engaging groove," as recited in amended claim 1, for example.

Mandel et al. discusses a refrigerator having a plastic kickface attached at a bottom portion thereof, which extends across a lowermost frontal portion of a shell of the refrigerator (see Abstract).

At page 3 of the Office Action, the Examiner asserts that an upper rear leg 184 of a metal strip 180 shown in FIG. 10 of Mandel et al. is comparable to the Applicants "engaging member" as recited in amended claim 1, for example. However, the Applicants respectfully submit that in Mandel et al., the upper rear leg 184 is not bent to extend in a direction towards the rear of the refrigerator cabinet 5.

Independent claim 9 recites similar features as those of amended claim 1.

Thus, withdrawal of the rejections is respectfully requested.

There being no further outstanding objections or rejections, it is submitted that the application is in condition for allowance. An early action to that effect is courteously solicited.

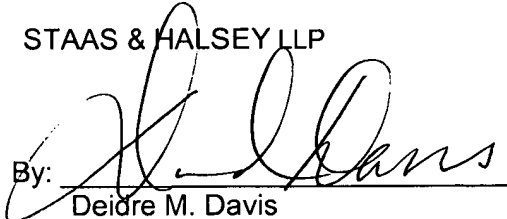
Finally, if there are any formal matters remaining after this response, the Examiner is requested to telephone the undersigned to attend to these matters.

If there are any additional fees associated with filing of this Amendment, please charge the same to our Deposit Account No. 19-3935.

Respectfully submitted,

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